

Message Text

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FM AMEMBASSY COTONOU

TO SECSTATE WASHDC 8821

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C O N F I D E N T I A L COTONOU 1404

E.O. 11652: GDS

TAGS: PORG, US, DM, CE

SUBJ: BENINESE FOREIGN MINISTER SPEECH AT COLOMBO SUMMIT

SUMMARY: MINISTER OF FOREIGN AFFAIRS AND COOPERATION MICHEL
ALLADAYE, HEAD OF BENINESE DELEGATION TO NAM SUMMIT,

ADDRESSED CONFERENCE AUGUST 19. SPEECH, WHICH CONSISTED MAINLY
OF DENUNCIATIONS OF "INTERNATIONAL IMPERIALISM", CATCH-PHRASE
FAVORED BY THE GPRB, INCLUDED SEVERAL ATTACKS ON THE UNITED
STATES. FULL TEXT OF SPEECH WAS PUBLISHED IN AUGUST 24 EDITION
OF EHUZU, GOVERNMENT-OWNED, NEWSPAPER. END SUMMARY.

1. FORMIN ALLADAYE'S SPEECH DESCRIBED RISE OF NON-ALIGNED
MOVEMENT AS HISTORY OF DEFEATS SUFFERED BY INTERNATIONAL
IMPERIALISM AT HAND OF THIRD WORLD. HIS PRIME EXAMPLE WAS
"TOTAL DEFEAT" IN SOUTHEAST ASIA INFLICTED ON "THAT SUPERPOWER
WHICH GIVES TO ITSELF, WITH SO MUCH FALSE ASSURANCE, THE
ROLE OF GFRDMXE OF ITERNATIONAL
MONOPOLICSTIC CAPITAL AND
THAT OF LEADER OF NEO-COLONIAL IMPERIALISM IN THE WORLD". HIS
INDICTMENT CONTINUED BY ACCUSING "AMERICAN IMPERIALISM"

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OF YEARS OF "ODIOUS CRIMES AND DESPERATE ATTEMPTS" TO

MAINTAIN IN POWER "A CLIQUE OF PUPPETS" IN VIETNAM, LAOS, AND CAMBODIA.

2. AGAINST BACKGROUND OF REMARKS MADE ON SUCH TOPICS AS SOUTHERN AFRICA, COMOROS ISLAND AND DJIBOUTI, ALLADAYE ATTACKED THE U.S. FOR ITS ROLE IN KOREA, THE MIDDLE EAST, PUERTO RICO, AND PANAMA. ON THE KOREAN QUESTION, ALLADAYE CALLED ON MEMBERS OF CONFERENCE TO SUPPORT DPRK'S EFFORTS TO "EXORCISE" THE AMERICAN PRESENCE IN SOUTH KOREA. THE MINISTER TERMED THE KOREAN SITUATION "THE MOST ELEGANT EXPERESION OF PUPPETISM CREATED BY THE SYSTEM OF DOMINATION AND THE FORMULA OF PARTIALITY OF AMERICAN IMPERIALISM IN THE FAR EAST". IN THE MIDDLE EAST, ALLADAYE ACCUSED U.S. OF TRANSFORMING PALESTINE INTO "A BASE OF AGGRESSION AND CONTROL" OF THE ARAB STATES AS PART OF SCHEME TO SAFEGUARD ITS STRATEGIC AND ECONOMIC INTERESTS. PUERTO RICO AND PANAMA WERE MENTIONED ONLY IN PASSING IN AN OVERALL CONDEMNATION OF AMERICAN POLICY IN LATIN AMERICA AND THE CARIBBEAN WHERE, HE SAID, THE U.S. MAINTAINS BASES AGAINST THE WILL OF THE LEGITIMATE GOVERNMENTS IN ORDER TO CONTROL THESE INDEPENDENT COUNTRIES.

3. U.S., HOWEVER, WAS NOT ONLY COUNTRY ON ALLADAYE'S LIST OF INTERNATIONAL IMPERIALISTS. THE MINISTER STRUCK OUT A PORTUGAL FOR ITS COLONIAL LEGACY IN AFRICA, AT FRANCE FOR ITS SALE OF A NUCLEAR REACTOR AND ARMS TO SOUTH AFRICA, AND ITS ROLE IN THE COMOROS ISLANDS, AND AT MOROCCO AND MAURITANIA OVER THE CONFLICT IN THE WESTERN SAHARA.

4. COMMENT: ALLADAYE'S SPEECH, WHICH CONTAINS SOME OF MOST INFLAMMATORY LANGUAGE HEARD FROM BENINESE IN RECENT MONTHS, WAS OBVIOUSLY INTENDED TO VAULT BENIN INTO FOREFRONT OF RADICAL AFRO-ARAB BLOCKS BY SHEER RHETORICAL FIREPOWER. TONE SUGGESTS THAT IT WAS WRITTEN IN LARGE PART BY THE MILITANT IDEOLOGUES OF THE CENTRAL COMMITTEE RATHER THAN BY FORMIN ALONE. NEVERTHELESS, WITH EXCEPTION OF TEXT, SPEECH'S SHARPLY ANTI-AMERICAN TONE HAS NOT BEEN GIVEN MUCH PLAY BY THE BENINESE MEDIA. NATIONAL RADIO BROADCASTS AND EHUZU ARTICLE OF AUGUST 19, DAY AFTER THE CONFIDENTIAL

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SPEECH, DID NOT MENTION UNITED STATES, NOR HAS THERE BEEN ANY OTHER COVERAGE. MOREOVER, IT APPEARS TJT SOME FONMIN OFFICIALS WERE UNAWARE OF OVERT ANTI-U.S. THRUST SINCE DURING COURTESY CILL MADE BY CHARGE ON AUGUST 23, MFA OFFICIAL IN CHARGE OF AMERICAN AFFAIRS REMARKED "YOU WILL NOTE THAT OUR MINISTER DID NOT ATTACK YOU AT COLOMBO".¹ AT THAT TIME, TEXT OF THE SPEECH WAS UNAVAILABLE. HARD LINE TAKEN IN SPEECH HAS BEEN INTERPRETED BH SOME OBSERVERS

HERE TO STEM FROM BLIND MILITANCY OF CIVILIAN IDEOLOGUES WHO
DOMINATE RULING COUNCIL, AND WHO VIEW SUCH SPEECHES AT
INTERNATIONAL CONFERENCES AS MEANS OF STRENGTHENING
REVOLUTION AT HOME, AS WELL AS METHOD OF GAINING PRESTIGE IN
THIRD WORLD.
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